USGS
science for a changing world

Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center

Biological Resources Discipline - Central Region

Mission: The center conducts research on the biological resources of the nation's interior grasslands and develops research information on the ecological requirements for sustainable wildlife populations.

The Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center (NPWRC), located in Jamestown, North Dakota, conducts research needed for the management and preservation of migratory grassland-nesting birds, with primary emphasis on waterfowl within the Prairie Pothole Region.

The interior grasslands, or prairies, of the North American continent are an invaluable natural resource. For many species of migratory birds, the prairies are also home to a large resident flora and fauna, including many endemic species. Today, intensive agriculture and other human activities have drastically reduced the extent of the native grassland and greatly modified the remainder. Habitat loss and fragmentation, fire suppression, altered hydrology, intensive grazing, and modified predator communities have placed many plant and animal species at risk. On-going research at NPWRC is divided between (1) studies to assess the numbers and distributions of plants and animals, including identification of changes resulting from habitat loss and modification; and (2) quantitative ecological research at the species, population, and ecosystem levels to identify the requirements of individual species and the biotic and abiotic interactions within the communities and ecosystems.

NPWRC's web site contains a butterfly identification link

A Swift fox is fitted with a radio collar

The Center's Core Capabilities

The Center maintains staff expertise in the following core areas:

- Waterfowl ecology, behavior, and population dynamics
- Biology and ecology of grassland birds
- Wetland ecology, classification, and management
- Mammalian predator ecology, behavior, and management

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

For more information, contact:
Regional Biologist, Central Regional Office
PO Box 25046, MS 300, DFC, Denver, CO 80225
303/236-2730

October 2001

Core Capabilities and Field Stations

♦ Grassland vegetation analysis, ecology, and management, including grassland and savanna fire ecology

♦ Aquatic and grassland invertebrate biology

♦ Food web analysis using stable isotope techniques

♦ Landscape and plant ecology

♦ Disturbance ecology

♦ Amphibian and reptilian taxonomy, ecology, and physiology

♦ Statistical and technological applications, such as GIS and remote sensing

♦ Restoration of prairie and savanna habitats

♦ Control of invasive exotic plants

NPWRC Field Stations:

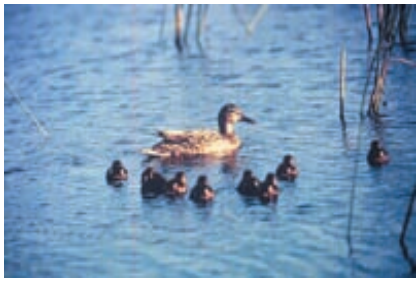
University of Missouri Field Station
Columbia, MO
Conduct studies to develop and evaluate long-term ecological monitoring strategies for grassland units of the National Park System.

University of Minnesota Field Station- Wolf Project
St. Paul, MN 55108
Concentrating on wolf ecology.

Bird in the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

Sandhill cranes gather in the prairie mist

Long-horned beetles are used in biological control of leafy spurge



Female mallard with ducklings

University of Minnesota Field Station- Social Science Program
St. Paul, MN 55108
Researches visitor management issues in the nation's National Parks.

University of Minnesota Field Station- Grassland Initiative
St. Paul, MN 55108

Woodworth Field Station
Woodworth, ND
Provides dormitory, laboratory and other support facilities for Center and visiting biologists working on field studies.

Information:

Central Region
Biological Science Coordinator
Frank D'Erchia
303-236-2730 x246
fax: 303-236-2733
frank_derchia@usgs.gov

USGS Home Page
http://www.usgs.gov

Central Region Home Page:
http://biology.usgs.gov/cro

Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center
8711 37th Street Southeast
Jamestown, North Dakota
58401-7317
701-253-5500
Fax: 701-253-5553

Web site:
http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov